

SITE STATUS UPDATE

San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site Harris County, Texas

June 2018

This Fact Sheet will tell you about...

- Community Meeting
- Current Status/Recent Activities
- Community Involvement
- Updating Community Involvement Plan (CIP)
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Please Come Out and Join Us!

Community Meeting

Date: Tuesday, June 5, 2018
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Location: The Highlands Community Center
604 Highland Woods Drive
Highland, Texas 77562

During the meeting, an update will be provided about the status of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits site activities. Following the PowerPoint presentation, a question and answer session will be open to the public.

This meeting is being held in a fully accessible facility. Should you have any specific needs or questions, please contact the EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator.

Current Status/Recent Activities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reached a settlement with the site potentially responsible parties (PRPs) in April 2018 for the completion of a Remedial Design. The PRPs, under oversight by the EPA, in cooperation with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), have initiated the design process. Currently, the EPA, TCEQ, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the PRPs are meeting to outline the technical requirements of the design. The PRPs are also preparing a work plan to perform sampling and geotechnical investigations in support of the design, with the field work slated for later in 2018.

Community Involvement

The EPA is committed to engaging in dialogue and collaboration with community members. We strongly believe that public engagement makes for better,

informed decisions for both the EPA and for the community. Our goal for Superfund community involvement is to advocate and strengthen meaningful community participation during Superfund cleanups. We strive to encourage and enable community members to get involved. The EPA is committed to:

- Listening carefully to what the community is saying;
- Taking the time needed to deal with community concerns;
- Keeping the community well informed of ongoing and planned activities; and
- Explaining to the community what the EPA has done and why.

Updating Community Involvement Plan

The Community Involvement Plan (CIP) serves as a guide for the EPA in sharing information and providing opportunities for public input on site cleanup of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site and other activities outlined in EPA's October 11, 2017, Record of Decision (ROD) for the site. The EPA is in the process of revising the San Jacinto River Waste Pits CIP. The updated CIP will identify areas of current interest and potential concerns of the local community and other stakeholders at the site. To help update the CIP, the EPA will interview community members impacted by the site starting in June 2018.

The EPA welcomes your feedback and suggestions on how to improve our communication efforts. Do you have suggestions that can improve the exchange of information or ideas regarding the cleanup efforts? Then we want to hear from you! Please share your thoughts with Janetta Coats, the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site Community Involvement Coordinator, at coats.janetta@epa.gov or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free).

Site History

The Site, located in Harris County, Texas (Figure 1), consists of two sets of impoundments, or pits, built in the mid-1960s for disposing solid and liquid pulp and paper mill wastes that are contaminated with dioxins and furans. The northern set of impoundments, about 14 acres in size, are located on the western bank of the San Jacinto River, north of the Interstate 10 (I-10) bridge over the San Jacinto River. These northern impoundments are

partially submerged in the river. The southern impoundment, less than 20 acres in size, is located on a small peninsula that extends south of I-10. The northern impoundments were covered with an armored cap in 2011 as a temporary way to contain the contaminants. Dioxins persist in the environment for a long time because their structure is resistant to chemical or biological degradation.

The selected remedy, which includes removal of the dioxin containing material from the waste pits for off-site disposal, will protect human health and the environment by removing highly contaminated material from the site. The plan provides certainty to people living near the site by permanently addressing risks posed by the contamination. It also provides certainty to other economic interests including the businesses that rely on the San Jacinto River navigation and the I-10 transportation corridor.

The EPA's cleanup plan includes installing engineering controls such as a cofferdam before excavating approximately 212,000 cubic yards of dioxin contaminated material for disposal. The estimated cost for the remedy is \$115 million.

The EPA added the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site to the National Priorities List of Superfund sites in 2008 after testing revealed contamination from dioxins and furans near the waste pits.

What's Next

The Remedial Design, which is being paid for by the PRPs, is expected to take about 2½ years to complete. The PRPs are also expected to perform and pay for the construction cost, however, an enforceable document remains to be negotiated for that work. The construction negotiations will begin while the Remedial Design is in progress.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the Site, visit our website, www.epa.gov/tx/sjrwsp or contact the following resources:

U.S. EPA

Gary Miller or Gary Baumgarten
miller.garyg@epa.gov or baumgarten.gary@epa.gov
Superfund Remedial Project Manager
1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

Janetta Coats
coats.janetta@epa.gov
Senior Community Involvement Coordinator
214.665.7308 or 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free)

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Katie Delbecq
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TCEQ Superfund Project Manager
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TCEQ Superfund Community Relations Liaison
512.239.3844

Texas Department of State Health Services

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Manager, Health Assessment and Toxicology Program
512.776.2652

Site Repository

Stratford Branch Library
509 Stratford Street
Highlands, Texas 77562

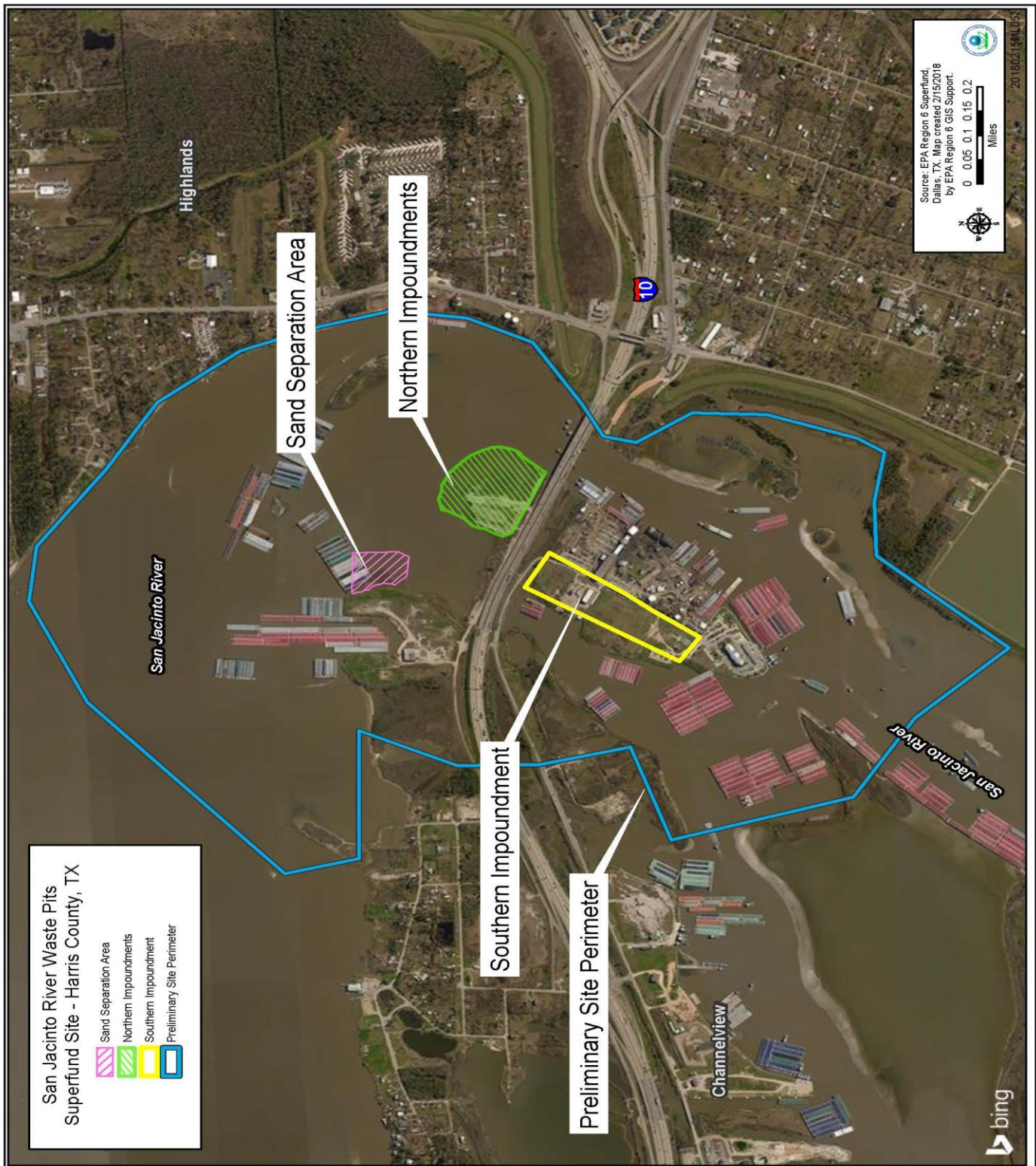
All inquiries from the news media should be directed to the Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2200.

To receive a Spanish translation of this fact sheet, call the EPA at 1.800.533.3508 (toll-free).

Para recibir una traducción en español de esta hoja de datos, comuníquese con la Agencia de Protección del Medio Ambiente de los EEUU (la EPA) al número de teléfono 1.800.533.3508 (llamada gratis).

EPA wishes to thank the community members for their participation at all EPA community meetings and encourages everyone to attend the next meeting to be held by the EPA. We will notify the community of the next community involvement event when it is scheduled.

Figure 1



In May 2017, Administrator Scott Pruitt established a task force to restore EPA's Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force>

